

randolph county

CONSERVATION AREA

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RAND

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THE AREA

Randolph County Conservation Area is about 4 miles north of Chester off County Highway DD, in Randolph County. The original land acquisition of 25 acres in 1958 has been increased to 1,031 recreational acres, including a 65-acre lake.

THE LAKE

In 1958, plans were in progress for the dam and spillway to impound some 85 acres. The lake was completed in 1961, access roads had been built and additional access roads were in. A service building and toilets were constructed in 1962. Several years later the boat harbor utility building was completed, harbor improvements with additional parking areas nearby, the concrete boat ramp and boat dock were completed and a custodian's residence was constructed.

The lake contains 65.5 surface acres, an average depth of 19 feet, and 35 feet maximum depth with about 3½ miles of shoreline.

THE NATURAL SCENE

The rolling topography has a minimum amount of flat land. Because of the fairly steep slopes, no cultivation is incorporated on the area other than food plot planting for wildlife. The lake is surrounded by good quality hardwood timber, interspersed with several other stands. Several miles of shrub, autumn olive, bush honeysuckle and multiflora rose interspersed throughout provide abundant cover for upland game.

Mature shrub fencerows and field borders intersown with expanses of unmowed grass and small annual food plots of grain sorghum, wheat and corn provide excellent quality food and cover for quail and rabbits. Such extensive cover on the area makes the use of beagles and bird dogs almost essential for insuring a successful rabbit or quail hunt. Several large stands of mature oak-hickory woods are scattered throughout the area.

Fox and gray squirrels are numerous and represent an important hunting resource on the area. The number of deer inhabiting the area appears to be increasing and the prospects of taking a deer on the area with a bow are improving.

FACILITIES

Picnicking: Tables and outdoor stoves are provided at 5 picnic areas in shaded areas near to drinking water and parking.

Camping: There are 3 campgrounds for tents and trailers that have vehicular access. Campers must obtain a permit for camping from the site manager.

Boating: A concrete launching ramp and a boat dock are near the harbor utility building where a concession stand is operated in the warm months. There is boat rental.

Horse Trails: There are nearly 7 miles of bridle paths which wind through the area.

Fishing: The lake contains largemouth bass, bluegill, sunfish, channel cat and bullhead. There is boat fishing with electric motors only allowed. Ice fishing is allowed when the ice is thick enough.

Hunting Regulations

1. Hunting is restricted to those portions of the areas posted as open to hunting.
2. Check Station is present on the area (see map), and all hunters, except squirrel hunters, shall check in and secure a back patch to be displayed at all times while hunting on the area.
3. All hunters, including squirrel hunters are to check out and report their day's take.
4. All hunting is to be with shotgun or bow and arrow only.
5. All other applicable regulations found in the Illinois Game Code and Federal regulations will be in effect.

Over 900 acres of hunting space are available. The area is open for squirrel, dove, woodcock, pheasant, quail, rabbit and deer (bow only) hunting. Check with the site ranger for upland game species and hunting dates.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION . . .

Admittance will not be granted groups of 25 or more persons to any state park or conservation area unless permission from the park ranger has been secured to use the facilities. It is also required that groups of minors have adequate supervision and that at least one responsible adult accompany each group not exceeding 15 minors. All pets must be on a leash.

Numerous state parks and memorials are within easy access of every part of the state. Lodges, cabins and dining rooms are important features of Illinois Beach, Starved Rock, Pere Marquette, White Pines Forest and Giant City. Reservations for lodging should be made with lodge managers.

All state parks are open the year round. When weather conditions necessitate the closing of park roads during freezing and thawing periods, access to park facilities is by foot only.

For more details about this site, contact Ranger, R.R. 1, Box 345, Chester, 62233, phone 618/826-2706. For information on other Illinois sites, write the Department of Conservation, Information/Education Section, State Office Building, Springfield, 62706.



Park Map



To Ill. Rt. 3 →

D&D Road

← To Chester

Youth Group
Camping Area

Rolling Hills
Camping Area

Boat Dock
Launch &
Concession

Shelter

Meadow
Picnic Area

Shelter

Lake View
Picnic Area

Shelter

Park Entrance

Ranger's
Res.

Oak Ridge
Camping Area

Dam Picnic
Area

Dam

Park Office &
Check Station



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Information/Education Section

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